Family Planning Insurance Scheme

1046. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government takes a long time to settle claims pertaining to the Family Planning Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many claims have been settled during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a), (b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Negative inflation and rise in prices of essential goods

1047. MS. KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite overall low/negative inflation, the prices of essential commodities have gone up substantially over the past one year;

(b) if so, the rate of increase in prices of cereals, pulses, salt, fruits and vegetables during the past one year;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to protect the poor and the economically weak from such high prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The year-on-year inflation measured by the wholesale price index (WPI) was negative at 1.4 per cent in June, 2009. Month wise inflation (in per cent) for select essential commodities since June, 2008 is indicated in table 1 below:

	All-Comm.	Cereals	Pulses	Vegetables	Fruits	Salt
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Weight (%)	100.00	4.41	0.60	1.46	1.46	0.02
Jun-08	11.82	7.17	-1.30	1.82	5.62	6.01
Jul-08	12.36	7.41	1.44	-4.90	11.91	6.20
Aug-08	12.82	6.49	6.56	-8.52	21.05	10.49
Sep-08	12.27	6.38	8.51	-2.66	16.42	24.85
Oct-08	11.06	8.80	8.88	12.75	15.79	26.75
Nov-08	8.48	9.21	10.99	24.35	14.10	21.68
Dec-08	6.19	10.53	12.59	7.65	15.91	24.32